

Edwards Secures Funds to Build New Bryan Army Reserve Headquarters for the 420th Engineering Brigade, Current Facility Inadequate for Troops

(Washington, D.C.) -U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that he has secured federal funding to complete construction of a new headquarters building for the Army 420th Engineer Brigade Reserve Center in Bryan. Edwards added the funding to the 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which passed the House Appropriations Committee Tuesday.

"This is great news for the service men and women of the 420th Engineering Brigade in Bryan, who recently returned home after a year of duty in Afghanistan. Building a new, first class headquarters sends a clear message that we respect their service and sacrifice. I recently toured the current Reserve Center in Bryan, and saw firsthand that the facilities are undersized, inefficient, and simply inadequate to carry out their responsibilities.

"21st Century soldiers shouldn't have to train in Cold War era facilities. Ensuring our service men and women have the best facilities in which to train and live is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. In an all-volunteer military force, we cannot expect to attract and retain the best and brightest if we do not provide quality training facilities."

The \$12.2 million secured by Edwards covers the total projected cost for construction of the new Army Reserve Center. In 2008, Edwards secured \$920,000 in federal funds for the

planning and design of the new facility. On a tour of the current 420th Engineer Brigade Reserve Center last May, Edwards saw firsthand the cracked floors and damage to the walls and ceiling at the current facility, and pledged to seek additional funds to construct a new facility as Chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. The current building, built in 1958, is considered unsafe due to the instability of the foundation, which has resulted in cracked floors and damage to the walls and ceiling.

This new facility will provide eight acres of land and a 150-member training facility with an administrative area, educational area, assembly area, a library, a learning center, a vault, a weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for four Army Reserve units. There will be a maintenance shop and additional storage and parking.

The 420th recently returned home to Bryan after a tour of duty in Afghanistan. On D-Day, Edwards welcomed them home in an official ceremony, where he also presented the Silver Star to Specialist David R. Hutchinson of the 420th, only the 5th reservist in history to receive the Silver Star.

Edwards is Co-Chair of the House Army Caucus and Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

STATEMENT BY Colonel (Promotable) James H. Doty

Jr., Commander, 420th Engineer Brigade regarding committee approval of

construction of the New Army Reserve Center in Bryan, Texas

"I am very happy that the Military Construction and Veteran's Affairs subcommittee has recommended approval of \$12.2 million dollars to construct a desperately needed Army Reserve Center for our Headquarters in Bryan, Texas in the upcoming fiscal year 2010 Military Construction Appropriations bill, thanks in large measure to the unwavering leadership shown by the committee chair and our local member

representing the 17th District Congressman Chet Edwards.

The current Moore Memorial Center was constructed nearly half a century ago, to support a very different force than we have today. It is quite frankly beyond its useful life and wholly inadequate to serve as the Headquarters for an Army Reserve Headquarters supporting and training nearly 5000 citizen Soldiers in 19 states. The Brigade Headquarters has deployed and courageously fought in both Iraq and Afghanistan within a five year period. The Citizen Soldiers serving in the brigade deserve a facility worthy of their commitment and sacrifice. Although the need for the facility has long been recognized by the Department of Defense, this action today will help accelerate its completion by over two years. I would like to give my praise and thanks to Chairman Edwards, the ranking member and the entire committee for their forward looking action, and I look forward to swift passage by the entire House."

James H. Doty Jr.

Colonel (Promotable)

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